

The federal government can and should do more to invest in our students and schools as states struggle to provide adequate K-12 funding, as well as affordable higher education opportunities. Quality education creates sound building blocks for future generations, yet recent trends indicate that American students are falling behind their foreign counterparts in nearly all subjects.

### **DeFazio's Community College Scholarships**

DeFazio understands the importance of higher education and he could not have attended college without the assistance of financial aid. This is why he established a scholarship fund for dislocated workers at five community colleges in southwest Oregon. Since he has consistently refused the pay raises that other Members of Congress keep passing for themselves, the scholarship fund lets him use that excess pay to benefit Oregonians. By the end of 2011, DeFazio will have contributed \$334,000 of after-tax salary toward 207 scholarships and debt reduction. He counts these scholarships among of his proudest accomplishments.

### **Early Childhood Development**

DeFazio has been a strong supporter of increasing federal funding levels and federal resources to Pre-K programs, such as Head Start. Early childhood education, nutrition, health care and family support services are critical for our nation's youth. Often times these programs are not just about schooling, they are about meeting the needs of young children and their families.

### **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind)**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act needs to be reauthorized, providing opportunities to track student progress in a meaningful way rather than continue the short-sided policies that do not provide schools the necessary flexibility to reach achievement goals. DeFazio strongly believes that Congress needs to fully fund ESEA. When the federal government imposes mandates on local schools, then the federal government should follow through on promised funding to fulfill those mandates.

### Higher Education

In addition to his scholarships, Congressman DeFazio has been a consistent supporter of federal higher education programs such as Pell grants, federal work study, and student loan forgiveness, which helps make college more affordable.

As a recipient of financial aid, DeFazio understands the importance of financial aid in helping students achieve a higher education for those who want one. He was proud to support the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) which became law in 2010. The SAFRA comes at an opportune time as a record number of students need assistance for affordable, quality education opportunities. SAFRA eliminates taxpayer financed subsidies to banks making federal educational loans in favor of a more cost efficient model, the Direct Loan program. Direct loans to students provide more opportunities to future generations than do subsidies to banks. Eliminating bank subsidies will result in \$61 billion in tax-payer savings over the next 10 years, which completely pays for the improved educational investments.

#### **In the 111th Congress (2009-2010):**

DeFazio voted for H.R. 3221, the “Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009” which eliminates the Federal Family Education Loan Program, and converts all federal loans to the Direct Loan program. This bill will generate nearly \$100 billion in savings over the next 10 years, according to the CBO. Using only the federal Direct Loan program will lower interest rates on subsidized federal student loans and create more access to Perkins loans, by expanding it to every U.S. College. In addition, more money will be directed to fund Pell Grants, and millions will be provided for community colleges to fund “innovative programs” including over \$33 million for Oregon Community Colleges. H.R. 3221 expands eligibility for federal loans to students convicted of drug possession, simplifies the FAFSA and forgives loans to students who withdraw from school because of active military duty. This bill reflects the largest investment in higher education ever, but has not been passed in the Senate.

The new Income-based Repayment (IBR) program, which went in effect in July as a result of the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, insures that no borrower will have to pay more than 15% of their discretionary income on student loan payments, and remaining loan debts will be forgiven after 25 years. Unfortunately, federal tax laws treat any forgiven loan balance as

taxable income which is why DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2492, preventing the taxation of loan debt forgiveness in this program.

DeFazio signed onto a letter, along with several colleagues, to Chairman Dicks urging him to retain the House funding level for the National Endowment for the Humanities in the conference for the appropriations bill. The House version, H.R. 2996 provided \$170 million for NEH, a critical \$15 million increase over the FY 2009 level. By contrast, the Senate version provided \$161.3 million. NEH receive \$167.5 million in the appropriations bill that became law, which helps the agency keep pace with the high demand for its programs at the national and state levels.

DeFazio signed onto a letter, along with several colleagues, to Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt asking that investment continues for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Significant support for IDEA was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act yet it is important to continue progress since the number of students receiving special education n services over the past decade has increased by 20 percent.

In January, DeFazio once again became an original cosponsor of Keep our Pact Act, which fully funds Elementary and Secondary Education Act and IDEA on a mandatory basis. This investment would allow for responsible increases in key education funding. Increased funding for IDEA helps to relieve budget pressures and ensure improved quality educational opportunities for students with disabilities. The 2004 reauthorization of IDEA reiterated the federal government's pledge of paying 40 percent of the National Average per Pupil Expenditure in IDEA Part B grants to states.

Like past years, DeFazio joined his colleagues in signing a letter to Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education to request increased funding for the TRIO programs. TRIO programs serve 840,000 low-income students across the United States, only 10% that are eligible, providing a continuum of educational outreach and support services to low-income, first-generation students from middle school through college.

DeFazio signed onto a letter, along with several colleagues, to Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis encouraging the committee to fully fund the Secure Our Schools Program in FY2010. This program was created to protect schools from potential threats by creating partnerships with local law enforcement agencies and schools nationwide. This program has

only been limited in scope since it has never been funded at the full authorization of \$30 million.

DeFazio co-sponsored H.R. 2329 which extends through 2011 the current \$250 classroom expenses tax deduction for teachers set to expire at the end of 2009. In December, the House passed H.R. 4213, which includes among other provisions a package of tax extenders included an extension of the classroom expense deduction to December 31, 2010. The Senate has not acted on this bill.

DeFazio joined his colleagues in signing a letter to Chairman Obey and Ranking member Tiahrt of the Labor Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to request funding for the Rural Education Achievement Program contained in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This initiative helps address the unique needs of small and rural schools

DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 3315, the Child Care Criminal Background Check Act. Many parents assume that child care providers have undergone a background check, but the reality is that many states do not require state or federal fingerprinting. H.R. 3315 requires all child care providers and employees undergo a state and federal criminal history background check before they can qualify for Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds from States. Over \$12 billion by the federal government is spent on child care annually, and it makes sense that we are assured that this money is spent protecting the well-being of our children.

In December, DeFazio supported public sector jobs and education renovation grants by voting for the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2009, H.R. 2847. This bill invested in infrastructure projects, public service jobs and emergency funding for unemployment insurance and COBRA health benefits. While infrastructure spending accounted for close to a third of this bill, 8% of the total infrastructure spending is allocated to school renovation grants. Further, this bill supports public sector jobs, including \$23 billion that is allocated to school districts and public institutions for higher education to retain or create jobs for teachers. This bill stalled awaiting Senate action.

DeFazio was once again a champion for the Oregon University System by securing critical federal funds for Oregon research projects. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (H.R. 3288), DeFazio secured nearly \$10 million for the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI). ONAMI is a collaboration between government, industry and higher education, and is located on the campuses of Oregon's major research universities: Oregon State University, Portland State University and the University of Oregon. The \$10

million includes:

- \$2.5 million for the ONAMI Miniaturized Tactical Energy Systems Development Initiative. The funding would be used to allow ONAMI to continue working with Ft. Belvoir to conduct research and product development that will provide miniaturized tactical energy systems for a range of Army applications.
- \$3.84 million for the ONAMI Nanoelectronic, Nanometrology, and nanobiotechnology Initiative. The funding would be used for research focused on developing methods and techniques for work on the nanoscale that are needed for both the fabrication of electronic and photonic devices and circuits as well as for tracking their reliability under operating conditions, especially under the harsh environments endured in military applications.
- \$3.52 million for the ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative. The funding would be used to develop nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods that simultaneously meet the military's need for high performance materials, protect human health, and minimize harm to the environment.

DeFazio also secured \$2.4 million in H.R. 3288 to continue research under the Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative at the University of Oregon. This program addresses fundamental questions about how humans think, learn and create, including questions about the range of brain processes that give rise to human cognition and the biological foundations of neurological disorders. Advances in cognitive neuroscience are helping to optimize the training and performance of military personnel, including the ability to function in stressful and complex environments. The funding in this bill will add to the over \$17 million DeFazio has secured to date for the Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative.

Following up on his success in securing funding for the Lane Community College Nursing Program in Fiscal Year 2009, DeFazio secured \$500,000 for the program in Fiscal Year 2010. This funding will allow LCC to continue to expand its simulation laboratory which is critical in increasing Lane's capacity to train more nurses. This expansion will also allow more Oregonians to gain training so that they can secure employment in an expanding and well paying field.

A perfect storm of high unemployment and increased substance abuse, both triggers for child abuse, combined with slashed funding for social services has resulted in a failure to meet the needs of children at risk in Douglas County. In response, DeFazio secured \$300,000 for the Douglas County C.A.R.E.S. Kids in Common program in H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010. Kids in Common trains and supervises community volunteer advocates to speak for the best interests of abused children in the court system. Advocates expedite a child's process through the court and child welfare system and strive to assure their placement in a safe and permanent home. Kids in Common also provides services to assess and treat trauma to alleged child abuse victims and their families in a child friendly location. The funding will be used to sustain the program given current county budget shortfalls.

### **In the 110th Congress (2007-2008):**

DeFazio voted in favor of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, which overhauls our nation's higher education laws, advancing key reforms that address the soaring price of college and remove other obstacles that make it harder for qualified students to go to college. Specifically, HEOA encourages colleges to rein in price increases and provide consumers with helpful information by holding colleges and universities accountable for their tuition hikes and by requiring them to report their reasons for tuition increases; HEOA streamlines the federal student aid application process by coordinating with the Internal Revenue Service to use financial information that the government already has; HEOA makes textbook costs more manageable by providing students with advance information on textbook pricing to help them plan for expenses before each semester; HEOA restores integrity and accountability to the student loan programs by requiring institutions and lenders to adopt strict codes of conduct; And, HEOA makes college more affordable for low-income and non-traditional students by allowing students to receive Pell Grant scholarship aid year round. The HEOA passed the House July 31, 2008 and was signed into law August 14, 2008.

In April, 2008 DeFazio voted in favor of the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. This legislation was enacted to protect families' access to federal student loans from turmoil in the nation's credit markets. The law provides new protections, in addition to those in current law, to ensure that students and families could continue to have access to all the federal loans they were eligible for – and at no cost to taxpayers. Specifically, the legislation extends the Secretary's authority to purchase loans from lenders in the federal guaranteed loan program, if there was a determination that lenders and other existing policy options were unable to meet the demand for loans. This helps ensure that lenders continue to have access to capital to originate new loans.

In H.R. 2638, the fiscal year 2009 Homeland Security spending bill – which included the FY2009 Department of Defense spending bill – DeFazio helped secure \$4 million for the ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative, \$2.4 million for the ONAMI Miniature Tactical Energy Systems Development Initiative, and \$4 million for the ONAMI Nanoelectronics program. The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) is a collaboration between government, industry and higher education, and is located on the campuses of Oregon's major research universities: Oregon State University, Portland State University and the University of Oregon. ONAMI will develop nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods that simultaneously meet the military's need for high performance materials, protect human health, and minimize harm to the environment.

As in previous years, DeFazio lead the effort to reauthorize the county payments law. In the early days of the 110th Congress, DeFazio introduced H.R. 17, which would reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act for a period of five years. The Congress under Republican control failed to renew this important law, which expired in September, 2006. As of October 2007, H.R. 17 has 131 cosponsors, but is stalled in the House Agriculture Committee.

In May 2007, DeFazio succeeded in securing a one-year extension of the county payments law as part of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq. President Bush threatened to veto this legislation because the White House claimed that the expiration of county payments “does not meet any reasonable definition of emergency.” After sending several dear colleague letters sponsored by DeFazio to House members, the hard work of a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers secured the much-needed funding, which will keep counties operating and providing critical services to rural communities until mid-2008.

In June 2007, DeFazio intended to offer an amendment to the Interior Appropriations legislation, which would have made a technical amendment to the county payments law and preserved the opportunity to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools legislation. This amendment would have inserted language into the Interior bill that would have permitted the reauthorization proposal to go to a conference committee between the House and the Senate, setting the stage for adoption of a Senate-backed proposal to reauthorize the program. Unfortunately, the amendment was not supported by the appropriators, and therefore was blocked by a procedural motion.

In July 2007, DeFazio introduced H.R. 3058, the Public Land Communities Transition Assistance Act of 2007, which would reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools legislation. Similar to H.R. 17, H.R. 3058 would reauthorize the county payments law, and provide certainty to rural

communities and governments. This legislation was carefully drafted in order to ensure that the Natural Resources Committee, of which DeFazio is a member, would receive primary jurisdiction over the measure. In September, the Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the bill, and marked up the legislation. H.R. 3058 was unanimously voted out of the Committee, and the proposal is now ready for further action by the House.

In August 2007, DeFazio offered an amendment to the House Energy Bill, which would authorize the Resource Advisory Committees created by the Secure Rural Schools legislation to review, approve, and monitor forest biomass projects. Similar to the proposed amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill, this amendment would permit the House and Senate conference committee to address the reauthorization of the county payments law. The amendment was made in order and adopted as part of a manager's amendment. The House Energy Bill was passed on the House floor by a vote of 241-172. The Senate has yet to act on its Energy bill.

On September 7, 2007 DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, an historic college aid bill that makes college more affordable and provides the single largest investment in college financial assistance since the 1944 GI Bill at no new cost to U.S. taxpayers. An earlier version of the bill, H.R. 5, of which DeFazio was an original cosponsor, was approved by the House on January 17, 2007. H.R. 2669 reduces the cost of loans for millions of student borrowers, cuts interest rates in half on need-based student loans, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next four years saving the average college student nearly \$5,000. H.R. 2669, which became public law on September 27, 2007, will also increase the maximum Pell Grant scholarship by \$490 in 2008 and by \$1,090 over the next five years, restoring its purchasing power. The bill pays for itself by reducing excessive federal subsidies paid to lenders in the college loan industry by \$20.9 billion. It also includes \$750 million in federal budget deficit reduction.

DeFazio secured funding in H.R. 3043, the fiscal year 2008 spending bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, for the Linn-Benton Community College Science and Health Center. LBCC's science labs are 35 years old and have never been refurbished. They are in a constant state of use due to a steep increase in the number of health career and engineering preparation students. LBCC needs assistance in buying new laboratory equipment for their new 20,000 square foot science and health building and renovated existing science labs. H.R. 2764, the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations bill, includes \$526,000 for this purpose.

H.R. 2764 also included \$97,000 requested by DeFazio for the Springfield Public Schools Academy of Arts and Academics. A3's curriculum blends rigorous academics with



professional-level media, theater arts, and visual arts to propel learning, engage passion, and empower transformation. Federal funding will enable the school to expand from its current enrollment of 90 9th- and 10th-graders to a rigorous arts-based small high school serving up to 250 9th- through 12th-grade students. The school targets traditionally underserved students. Early reports indicate retention levels that far surpass those of larger more traditional high schools.

H.R. 2764 included \$500,000 requested by DeFazio for Mobility International. The funds will be used for a National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange (NCDE), a project sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State to: educate people with disabilities and related organizations about international exchange opportunities; increase the participation of people with disabilities in the full range of international volunteer, study, work and research programs; advise international exchange organizations about the Americans with Disabilities Act; and facilitate partnerships between people with disabilities, disability-related organizations and international exchange organizations. Mobility International is located in Eugene, Oregon.

H.R. 3222, the fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense spending bill included \$2 million for the ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative, \$2 million for the ONAMI Miniature Tactical Energy Systems Development Initiative, and \$1 million for the ONAMI Nanoelectronics program that was requested by DeFazio. The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) is a collaboration between government, industry and higher education, and is located on the campuses of Oregon's major research universities: Oregon State University, Portland State University and the University of Oregon. ONAMI will develop nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods that simultaneously meet the military's need for high performance materials, protect human health, and minimize harm to the environment. The Senate version of this bill included \$4 million, \$2.5 million, and \$2.5 million for these programs, respective. H.R. 2764, the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations bill, set the final total for these programs at \$2.5 million, \$3.2 million, and \$2 million.

DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 1010, the Student Aid Reward Act of 2007. This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 by directing the Secretary of Education to carry out a Student Aid Reward Program of payments to encourage colleges and universities to participate in the direct student loan program.

DeFazio continues to support federal aid for school construction and renovation. He is a cosponsor of H.R. 2470, legislation to provide tax incentives for investing on school renovation bonds.

On May 8, 2007 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 1608, the "College Made EZ Act." This bill would dramatically improve the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process by making the application consumer-friendly, with 50% fewer data elements, ensuring its availability in both paper and electronic format, and making it flexible enough to permit applicants to enter data years before enrolling.

On April 24, 2007 DeFazio joined his colleagues in signing a letter to Chairman Norm Dicks of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to request funding for the national Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The request of \$177 million in FY 2008 would be an increase of \$36 million over FY 2006 and FY 2007 enacted levels and equal the nominal FY 1994 funding level. Increased funding would be used to extend NEH's two major initiatives: the "We the People" program and the Digital Humanities Initiative.

On April 24, 2007 DeFazio joined his colleagues in signing a letter to Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education to request increased funding for the TRIO programs. TRIO programs serve 873,000 low-income students across the United States providing a continuum of educational outreach and support services to low-income, first-generation students from middle school through college.

On April 24, 2007 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 1653, the "Responsible Education About Life Act." This act would provide grants to states for family life education, including education on abstinence and contraception to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. DeFazio also joined his colleagues in signing a letter describing his concerns with the abstinence-only education program and asking that the program not be reauthorized.

On May 3, 2007 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 1048, the Profiting from Access to computer Technology (PACT) Act. This bill would direct every federal agency to identify and transfer federal equipment that it no longer needs to schools, nonprofit community-based educational organizations, and families of members of the Armed Forces who are deployed.

On June 8, 2007 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 2611, the "Mentoring America's Children Act of 2007." This bill would improve ESEA's mentoring program by encouraging local businesses, universities, and community leaders to partake in the program and requiring that children in

living in high crime or high gang involvement areas have better access to mentoring programs. The bill would also expand mentoring programs to Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Alaskan native students and include new mentoring services in school violence and drug abuse prevention counseling.

On September 18, 2007 DeFazio joined his colleagues in signing a letter to Chairman Miller of the House Education and Labor Committee to support the reauthorization of the Close Up Fellowship Program, a program that enables economically disadvantaged students to participate in civic education programs of the Close Up Foundation. This one of a kind program ensures that children of every cultural, racial, and economic background should have the opportunity to experience firsthand how their government works.

DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 2668, legislation that would establish a grants program to reduce class sizes in elementary schools through the use of fully-qualified teachers.

### **In the 109th Congress (2005-2006)**

DeFazio voted against H.Con.Res. 95, the House Republican budget resolution for fiscal year 2006, which largely mirrored the budget submitted by President Bush, because it significantly underfunded critical education programs. The President's budget underfunded the No Child Left Behind Act by \$12 billion in 2006 alone. Similarly, like the President's budget, the House Republican budget eliminated 48 education programs funded at \$4.3 billion, while reducing funding for 17 other education programs. Similarly, DeFazio voted against H.Con.Res. 376, the budget proposed by House Republicans for fiscal year 2007 because of the education cuts it contained. The resolution underfunded NCLB by \$15 billion in 2007 alone. The budget also cut funding for all education programs by \$2.2 billion below the 2006 level and proposed to eliminate 42 programs, including Safe and Drug Free Schools, Perkins Loans, and vocational education.

• ***DeFazio also voted against H.R. 4241, the so-called Deficit Reduction Act***, because of the \$12 billion in student loan cuts included in the bill. The cuts would be used to partially offset additional tax cuts that would overwhelmingly benefit those making more than \$300,000 per year. Prior to the vote, DeFazio met with students at the University of Oregon to learn more about the damage these cuts would cause. The bill was signed into law on February 8, 2006.

- DeFazio, along with Rep. Walden (R-OR), is one of the leading supporters **of H.R. 517, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Reauthorization Act**. This legislation would ensure that rural schools districts will not suffer significant funding cuts that result from the reduced timber harvest on federal lands, which result in lower revenues being paid to counties. The original county payments law enacted in 2000 is expected to provide more than \$1.6 billion in stable funding to Oregon counties over the life of the bill. H.R. 517 would extend the original law for an additional seven years in order to provide a steady, predictable stream of revenues for rural counties and schools. H.R. 517 was approved by the House Resources Committee on June 9, 2005, but has not been considered on the House floor.
- On June 21, 2006, DeFazio and Walden successfully offered an amendment **to H.R. 4761, the Deep Energy Ocean Resources Act**, when it was considered in the House Resources Committee. The amendment mandates that \$50 million of new royalties collected by the federal government from companies engaged in outer-continental shelf oil and gas exploration be automatically directed to the county payments program each year for five years, for a total of \$250 million. The House approved H.R. 4761 on June 29, 2006. The Senate approved a different drilling measure. A conference committee created to resolve the differences between the competing bills has not completed its work.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 363, the Keep our PACT Act. This legislation would require full funding of the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- DeFazio voted against H.R. 3010, the fiscal year 2006 spending bill that includes the Department of Education because of the cuts to critical education programs. H.R. 3010 cut funding for the education programs under the No Child Left Behind Act by \$779 million below funding in 2005. In addition, even though the cost of college has gone up 34 percent since 2001, H.R. 3010 froze the maximum Pell Grant award at \$4,050 for the fourth straight year. The bill also cut education technology programs by 45 percent, and it would allow the federal share of special education costs to decline. H.R. 3010 was signed into law on December 30, 2005.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 670, the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. This bipartisan legislation would expand eligibility for teachers who go into math, science and special education to seek forgiveness of their student loans.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 224, the CLASS Act. This legislation amends the No

Child Left Behind law's provisions related to adequate yearly progress. H.R. 224 will give schools credit for all student improvement, not just improvement that brings a group of students into the proficient category. These improvements would include lowering dropout rates, meeting state report card indicators and other measures based on individual students gains over time. It will also ensure that help is targeted where needed by focusing supplemental services on those groups of students that have failed to improve. The legislation will also allow student scores on retests to count toward data reporting, and allow students with disabilities whose instructional level is at least three years behind grade level to be tested at an appropriate level rather than forcing them to take grade level assessments.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1277, the College Made EZ Act. This legislation would revise and simplify the Federal student aid application process, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Provides for: (1) a FAFSA EZ form with fewer pages and questions; (2) a pre FAFSA process, allowing application for HEA student assistance one year earlier, in junior year of high school; (3) greater Internet access to FAFSA forms; (4) more students qualifying for using a simplified form; and (5) automatic qualification for a simplified form for those students eligible for specified Federal programs, including school lunches. It also reduces the types of income and benefits which are considered untaxed for purposes of student assistance need analysis. Removes specified requirements relating to suspension of student aid eligibility due to drug related offenses.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1293, the Access and Equity in Higher Education Act. This legislation would amend the Higher Education Act to provide for (1) higher maximum amounts for subsidized and unsubsidized student loans under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program; (2) lower origination fees under FFEL and Federal Direct Loan programs; (3) loan flex programs with income sensitive repayment plans; (4) consolidation loan interest rate variation based on income; and (5) loan forgiveness for public service employees.

### **In the 108th Congress (2003-2004)**

- DeFazio voted against the House Republican budget resolution because it under-funded the commitments of the No Child Left Behind Act by nearly \$8.8 billion in fiscal year 2005 alone.

- DeFazio voted in favor of a budget amendment, H.Res. 685, by Representative Obey to boost education spending in fiscal year 2005 by \$5.7 billion, which would have meant \$21.7 million more for Oregon programs for disadvantaged students, \$14.3 million for Oregon

programs for disabled students, and \$22.8 million more for Pell Grants for higher education. The amendment was paid for by scaling back the tax cuts for millionaires from \$120,000 a year to \$24,000. The Obey amendment was defeated.

- In January 2003, DeFazio introduced a comprehensive economic stimulus bill that included \$5 billion to repair and upgrade our nation's crumbling school infrastructure.
- DeFazio joined Rep. Rahm Emanuel in introduced H.R. 1738, the American Parity Act, which required that the education, infrastructure, and social services investments U.S. taxpayers are being forced to make in Iraq be matched dollar for dollar by investments in similar activities here at home.
- Awarded the "Outstanding Service to Oregon" award from the University of Oregon Alumni Association, June 6, 2003.
- Named "Donor of the Year" for 2003 by the National Scholarship Providers Association in recognition of his commitment to redirecting proceeds from congressional pay raises into college scholarships.
- Recognized for lifetime achievements and contributions to the district and state are noteworthy and have improved the lives of many Oregonians, Alpha Kappa Alpha, 2004.
- H.R. 4613 also included \$2.5 million for the ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative and \$2.5 million for the ONAMI Miniature Tactical Energy Systems Development Initiative that was requested by DeFazio. The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) is a collaboration between government, industry and higher education, and is located on the campuses of Oregon's major research universities: Oregon State University, Portland State University and the University of Oregon. ONAMI will develop nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods that simultaneously meet the military's need for high performance materials, protect human health, and minimize harm to the environment.

- DeFazio obtained \$25,000 in H.R. 2673 for Southwest Oregon Community College to augment college programs providing training and retraining to the unemployed, but especially older dislocated workers.
- H.R. 2673 also included \$50,000 for the University of Oregon School of Music that was requested by DeFazio. This funding will be used to equip classrooms and practice areas as part of a larger effort to expand the School of Music.
- In the Commerce, Justice and State portion of H.R. 2673, the fiscal year 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act, DeFazio secured \$450,000 for the Lane County Breaking the Cycle Program. In December of 1998, the Lane County Department of Youth Services was awarded a National Institute of Justice grant of \$2 million for two years to address juvenile substance abuse and crime. This additional funding will help to ensure continuation of the program, which will allow Lane County to complete the assessment phase of the project and document the program=s effectiveness.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2366, legislation to suspend some of the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act until the federal government fully funds its portion of the law.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1094, legislation to achieve full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by 2008.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 936, the Leave No Child Behind Act, which distinguishes itself from the President's education initiative by focusing on a more holistic approach to children's well-being. H.R. 936 includes provisions to expand access to health care, child care, and family leave. The legislation also includes a strategy for dealing with juvenile justice.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1306, legislation to provide student loan forgiveness for students who enter public service in a variety of areas, including: (1) highly qualified teachers in low-income communities and of mathematics, science, and bilingual and special education; (2) early childhood educators; (3) nurses; (4) child welfare workers; (5) nutrition professionals; (6) infant and toddler specialists; and (6) other highly-qualified workers who serve low-income or needy communities and who are in public service professions that suffer from a critical lack of qualified personnel.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 236, the Student Bill of Rights, legislation to require the Secretary of Education to certify the extent to which each public school enables students to: (1) acquire knowledge and skills necessary for responsible citizenship; (2) meet challenging academic achievement standards; and (3) compete and succeed in a global economy. The legislation ensures accountability to these goals by withholding a portion of the federal aid to schools that don't make adequate progress.
- DeFazio contacted House appropriators in support of increased funding for a variety of critical elementary and secondary education programs including: Head Start, 21st Century Learning Centers (after-school programs), dropout prevention, math and science programs, arts education, the National Writing Project, and TRIO.
- DeFazio has also contacted House appropriators in support of increased funding for higher education programs like Pell Grants, Perkins loans, and university funding through the National Science Foundation.

### **In the 107th Congress (2001-2002)**

- DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 1, the bipartisan education reform and accountability legislation known as the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Cosponsor of H.R. 1076, the "America's Better Classroom Act," and H.R. 340, the "Excellence and Accountability in Education Act," legislation to repair, rebuild, and construct new public schools and hire more teachers with the goal of improving the conditions in America's public schools so kids are better able to learn.
- Author of H.R. 1921, the Federal Financial Aid Regulatory Relief Act, legislation eliminating the requirement for student loan applicants to be registered with the Selective Service in order to receive financial aid.



- Cosponsor of H.R. 1162, the A21st Century Higher Education Act, a comprehensive bill to expand federal support for higher education, including increased funding for financial aid. H.R. 1162 was drafted by the Ranking Democrat on the Education and Workforce Committee.
- Received the American Federation of Teachers Quality Service Award for outstanding efforts and steadfast support for legislation to advance the interests of children, public education, public employees and working families.
- H.J.Res. 2 also included \$50,000 for the E-Commerce Training Center at Umpqua Community College and \$50,000 for the after school programs in the Junction City School District, both of which were requested by DeFazio.
- Secured \$50,000 in H.R. 3061 for the University of Oregon=s Museum of Natural History. This funding will be used to make improvements to the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History=s research collection storage facility. The current facility is inadequate for historical archives.
- Secured \$750,000 in H.R. 2500, the fiscal year 2002 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill (signed into law on November 28, 2001) for the Breaking the Cycle program in Lane County and an additional \$750,000 in H.J.Res. 2, the fiscal year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which was signed into law on February 20, 2003.
- Secured \$150,000 in H.R. 2620, the fiscal year 2002 VA-HUD Appropriations bill, for the Boys & Girls Club of Albany. The funds will assist with construction of a 35,000 square feet addition to their existing facilities. The new addition will provide the Club with a total of 65,000 square feet and will include separation areas for elementary, middle and high school age children. The new addition will expand the computer learning center capabilities from 14 to 54 stations, provide two more full-sized gymnasiums, and will allow the development of new kitchen facilities enabling the Club to increase its daily meal programs for children. H.R. 2620 was signed into law on November 26, 2001.
- Drafted legislation, H.R. 2731, the School Energy Assistance Act, along with Representative Baird to provide federal grants to schools hit hard by rising energy prices.

- Received National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition Distinguished Service Award in appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the Forest Counties and Schools of America.
- Received the Congressional Youth Leadership Council Award for his commitment to educating today's young leaders for their future roles.

### **In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)**

- Successfully brokered compromise legislation, H.R. 2389, to guarantee increased federal timber sale payments to state and local governments for schools and road projects. DeFazio authored H.R. 1185 and H.R. 2868, bills to establish a permanent inflation-adjusted "safety net" for timber-dependent counties throughout the U.S. When these bills were blocked by House leadership, and with an alternate proposal blocked by a threatened Administration veto, DeFazio worked to break the legislative gridlock on the controversial issues and hammered out a compromise signed into law on October 30, 2000. The legislation means \$261 million annually for Oregon counties, an increase in annual payments of \$114 million.

### **In the 105th Congress (1997-1998)**

- Led a group of more than sixty Member of Congress in successfully opposing a provision in the House-passed tax package repealing section 117(d) of the tax code. This provision provides tax-exempt status for the nominal value of scholarships, fellowships, and tuition and fee waivers received by graduate students working as teaching or research assistants. DeFazio worked with students all over the country to ensure the provision was dropped from the final tax package. DeFazio authored similar provisions in a law approved in the 100th Congress making this provision permanent (see below).
- Led successful effort in the House to increase funding for the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program. When first considered, the House Department of Defense funding bill for fiscal year 1999 cut funding for the Youth Challenge Program by \$10 million from last year's level, putting Oregon's program in jeopardy. As a result of his efforts, the final funding bill, H.R. 4103, includes a \$12 million increase over last year's funding level. Not only did this allow

Oregon's program to continue, it was expanded to a full year program. The legislation was signed into law on October 17, 1998